(b) The matter was taken up with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

(c) In a Press Release on 15 June 2006, Pakistan Foreign Ministry said that "the media reports claiming that Krishna Mandir in Lahore has been demolished are baseless. The only Krishna Mandir that exists in Lahore is safe and the temple referred to in the section of press is not the Krishna Mandir" whcih is situated on Ravi Road, Lahore.

Renewal of trade link with China

1682. SHRI AMAR SINGH;
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to renew the trade link with China and thrown open Nathu La pass for those activities;

(b) whether Government had discussed the matter with Government of Bhutan which had closed its own border with Tibet amidst deteriorating Sino-Indian relations in late 1950; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government of Bhutan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Trade and economic cooperation between India and China is an important dimension of the repidly developing relations between the two countries and China is now one of the largest trade partners of India.

Border trade between India and China through Nathu La was resumed with effect from July 6, 2006 at the Changgu border trade mart at Sherathang on the Indian side and the Renqinggang trade mart on the Chinese side in accordance with the Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade signed between India and China on June 23, 2003.

(b) and (c) Government discuss all bilateral and other issues of mutual interest with the Royal Government of Bhutan within the framework of India-Bhutan relations. A press report appearing on July 18, 2006 in Bhutan's Government-owned newspaper quoted an official of the Royal Government of Bhutan as stating that the reopening of the India-China border trade through Nathula would not have a direct impact on Bhutan since Bhutan did not have a formal trade agreement with China.